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OAPEC OFFICIALS HOLD PREPARATORY MEETING IN KUWAIT

LD061246Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Summary] At the headquarters of OAPEC, the 30th meeting of the organization executive office opened this morning. The present session is chaired by Kuwait's representative, Mahmud al-'Adsani, under secretary for oil. The organization has 10 members. The office is preparing the agenda of the Ministerial Council of the organization to be held in Kuwait next Tuesday."

Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives

JN081033Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 May--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and minister of oil, arrived here today from At-Ta'if. The Iraqi minister will attend the 20th OAPEC ministerial meeting which will begin here tomorrow.

Qatari Oil Minister's Statement

NC081246Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 8 May--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibn Khalifah Al Thani arrived in Kuwait from At-Ta'if at noon today to attend the OAPEC Ministerial Council's meetings which will begin in the Kuwait Hilton Hotel tomorrow morning. In a statement he made on arrival in Kuwait, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibn Khalifah Al Thani described the OPEC Ministerial Council's meetings in At-Ta'if as positive and constructive. He said a ministerial committee has been formed to follow up on the OPEC strategy, that an economic committee will submit three points to the OPEC Ministerial Council meeting which will be held in Geneva next month, and that the Ministerial Council will base its resolutions on the recommendations submitted by this committee.

Asked by the QNA correspondent in Kuwait about the report published here that the OPEC oil ministers agreed at their meeting in At-Ta'if to increase the price of oil by 7 percent as of the second half of this year, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibn Khalifah Al Thani said this report is completely untrue and that the At-Ta'if conference did not make any decisions on this matter. He added that the discussions of the OPEC Ministerial Council in At-Ta'if centered on OPEC's strategy for the next 5 years.

Answering another question about reports that contacts are taking place among the Gulf states to set up an agency for protecting the oil sources, his highness said: I believe the intention to establish an agency for this purpose is good.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM BRIEFS PLO DELEGATION ON NUMAYRI TALKS

JN071825Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday met with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman, and Brother Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Our radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting views were exchanged on the current Arab situation. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam briefed the PLO Executive Committee delegation on Syria's stand during the talks held by President Numayri and the Arab League secretary general with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This stand is based on the principles of the steadfastness and confrontation front as well as on the front's stand toward As-Sadat's initiative.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES LETTER FROM AL-ASAD ON NUMAYRI TALKS

JN0817387 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday received a letter from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the talks recently held in Damascus between President al-Asad and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The talks dealt with holding an Arab summit conference and Syria's clear and firm stand on the convening of the summit conference. This stand stems from the resolutions of the Tripoli and Algiers summit conferences of the steadfastness and confrontation front.

It will be recalled that President Hafiz al-Asad sent similar letters to all heads of the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front: Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerian Republic; Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; and Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council.

QADDUMI, DELEGATION RETURN FROM YUGOSLAVIA

JN0819507 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, returned to Beirut yesterday at the conclusion of his visit to Yugoslavia, where he held a series of important talks with senior Yugoslav officials, headed by Veselin Djuranovic, president of the Federal Executive Council.

Talking about the results of the visit, Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar made the following statement in Damascus: Our visit to Yugoslavia was aimed at exchanging views with Yugoslav officials and leaders on the issues of the nonalined countries, in view of the postponement of the meeting of the coordination bureau due to have been held in Kabul on 4 May. Our talks also dealt with the results of the ninth conference of Islamic foreign ministers, which was held in Dakar 24-28 April, and with its important resolutions, particularly those pertaining to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East.

Abu Mayzar added: Our talks also dealt with the Islamic countries' unanimous condemnation of the U.S. schemes aimed at liquidating the Arab-Zionist struggle within the framework of U.S. and Zionist interests. Moreover, they dealt with the Islamic world's support for the legitimacy of the armed and political struggle of the PLO so as to topple all the settlements aimed at harming the Palestinian people's national rights to their homeland, Palestine.

Abu Mayzar said: Our talks with Yugoslav officials included the latest developments in the international situation. He affirmed that the talks were fruitful and useful. They were conducted in a cordial atmosphere of solidarity, reflecting the nature of the close relations between the Palestinian people and the friendly peoples of Yugoslavia, for we sensed the firm Yugoslav stand in support of the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO for the restoration of their firm national rights to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. Yugoslav officials also affirmed that the cornerstone of the Middle East question was and will always be the issue of Palestine.

The Palestinian delegation conveyed the greetings of Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and the greetings of the brother members of the PLO Executive Committee to President Tito for his efforts in support of the Palestinian people's struggle and national rights.

'ARAFAT APPEALS TO KIDNAPERS TO RELEASE ALDO MORO

JN061817Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening addressed the following appeal to the kidnapers of Aldo Moro, former prime minister of Italy:

On behalf of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian revolutionaries and myself, I appeal to the kidnapers of Aldo Moro to release him for the sake of the unity of the friendly Italian people and of democracy in Italy, so that his detention might not be exploited by the enemies of freedom, peace and humanity.

I sincerely hope that this tragedy will end by the release of Aldo Moro also for the sake of his family, which is experiencing grief, pain and human suffering.

FATAH REPRESENTATIVE MEETS WITH KUWAITI OFFICIAL

JN061619Y Manama Gulf News Agency in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 6 May--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Salim az-Za'nun, Fatah representative in Kuwait and the Gulf and deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council.

In a statement following the meeting, Az-Za'nun said he had briefed Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on all recent developments on the Palestinian stage and conveyed to him the Palestinian resistance's appreciation for Kuwait and its permanent representative at the United Nations, who is presenting on behalf of the Arab group the PLO's standpoint concerning the need for the UNIFIL to abide by the tasks entrusted to it in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Az-Za'nun also affirmed to the Kuwaiti foreign minister that the Fatah Central Committee is one unit, performing its duty and moving to face all the circumstances involving the Palestinian struggle. He concluded his statement by saying that Shaykh Sabah had expressed his full satisfaction regarding the unity of the Fatah movement. This unity, he added, has become the demand of all so that the Palestinian cause may be safeguarded and defended.

VOP ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR JERUSALEM ROCKET OPERATION

JN071810Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] The military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces has stated the following:

On the 30th anniversary of the occupation of our Palestinian homeland by the Zionist invaders; in affirmation of the insistence of our Palestinian people and Arab nation on continuing the struggle for the liberation of the usurped territories; in expression of our Palestinian revolution's determination to escalate the armed struggle, considering it the only way to confront all liquidationist plots and capitulationist schemes aimed at the Palestinian cause, both people and revolution; and despite the heavy security measures adopted by the Zionist enemy within the framework of the precautions taken in the occupied homeland in general and in Jerusalem in particular: The group of martyr Dalal al-Mughrabi managed to launch an attack with heavy rockets against Zionist government buildings in the middle of the occupied city of Jerusalem. The attack took place at 2300 yesterday, 6 May 1978.

A number of the rockets directly hit their specified targets and led to the following: 1) killing and injuring a number of the Zionist enemy; 2) destroying and damaging a number of buildings; 3) cutting off electric power in Jerusalem; 4) destroying and damaging a number of enemy cars.

Following the operation, Zionist ambulances, fire-engines, police and civil guard cars rushed to the area and evacuated the dead and injured. The enemy then placed the holy city in a state of siege, which included all suburbs and regions. Enemy military units carried out combing operations in the hilly areas around Jerusalem in search of our revolutionaries, but in vain. Meanwhile, our revolutionaries managed to carry out their operation with complete success. It is a revolution until victory.

ARAB CONFERENCE PROTESTS FRENCH INTERVENTION IN CHAD, SAHARA

LD082230Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] The permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference recently sent a note to the progressive organizations and parties in France explaining the views of the political organizations and parties in the Arab homeland which condemned the French intervention in Western Sahara and Chad, particularly the flagrant intervention against the Saharan people of Saguia, El Hamra and Rio de Oro.

A JANA correspondent has learned that the permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference has decided to send an official delegation to contact progressive organizations and parties in France with a view to acquainting French public opinion with France's interventions and the gravity of such an attitude on behalf of the ruling regime in France, for the sake of maintaining Arab-French friendship.

BAHRAIN

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITS BAHRAIN

JN081942Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 8 May--Foreign Secretary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki arrived here this evening for a short visit to the state of Bahrain. Immediately upon his arrival, Dr at-Turayki met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak. They reviewed relations between the two countries, the current Arab development and the means to restore Arab solidarity. Later, Dr at-Turayki left Manama for Afghanistan for a visit which will last several days.

KUWAIT

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN KUWAIT FOR 3-DAY VISIT

LD081744Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 78 LD

[Text] President Mokhtar Ould Daddah of Mauritania arrived at Kuwait international airport at about 1600 today for a 3-day visit to Kuwait. His highness the amir welcomed President Ould Daddah on his arrival at the airport. His highness the crown prince and prime minister and senior statesmen also welcomed the guest.

During the visit the Mauritanian president will hold talks with the amir on relations between the two sister countries and on ways to develop these relations in various fields. Talks will also cover the current situation in the Arab world and issues of common interest.

President Mokhtar Ould Daddah is accompanied by an official delegation which includes Mr Hamdi Ould Mouknass, foreign minister and member of the National Political Bureau of Mauritania, and a number of senior advisers. His excellency will be received by a mission of honor headed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yusuf Jasim Hajji.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CRITICIZES U.S. 'EXPLOITATION' OF OIL COUNTRIES

LD081720Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 May 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] The OPEC Ministerial Council will meet in At-Ta'if today. Although statements about the conference suggest that increasing oil prices and the dollar will not be among the topics discussed, it is presumed that these are the most important questions that the conference is bound to discuss.

We believe that as far as OPEC is concerned these are the most important questions. It is a matter of extreme importance. It is a matter of U.S. exploitation of the oil countries whether with regard to oil prices or the shaky dollar. This exploitation is evident in Iran's retreat from being the leading country advocating the increase of oil prices and its acceptance of the status quo following sudden developments in its domestic field. It seems as if a deal has been concluded in this matter.

In the Arab arena there is the dangling Israeli sword. It is as if the Arabs are being told to keep quiet or else Israel will be unleashed to strike. Meanwhile, oil prices remain frozen and the dollar shaky while no action is being taken to strike a balance between the prices of industrial goods and oil.

This shows that the United States wants the oil countries--which have no other wealth--to sacrifice themselves, to obey its orders, to cover its deficit and to submit to continued blackmail.

Oil is an exhaustible wealth. Every day that passes will not come back.

A few days ago OPEC General Secretary 'Ali Jidah said that "the industrial states are making false allegations against the oil countries, based on an exploitative view that goes back to the eras of exploitation and occupation of countries producing natural wealth."

This is quite true. How long will the oil countries go on squandering their irreplaceable wealth? How long will they remain the milk cow serving the interest of the big American businessman, whether this be the major marketing companies or the superpower?

It behooves the countries concerned to take bold and apppropriate decisions. Just as the oil in our possession is slipping from our hands, so is the future. Is it permissible to continue as we are, even though we are independent states--to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of a beast who is never satisfied, who does not know what humanity is, let alone human rights?

SAUDI ARABIA

OPEC Ministerial Council Meets 6-7 May

LD060550Y Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 May 79 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if--During their meeting at At-Ta'if this evening, OPEC ministers discussed a number of ideas and general issues concerning working out a common strategy for the OPEC member countries, in addition to the effect of the deterioration in the value of the U.S. dollar on their oil revenues.

The OPEC Ministerial Council is due to resume its meetings tomorrow morning for further talks and debates on the issues discussed today. The council has not set a precise agenda for itself.

On the other hand, Mohammad Yeganeh, Iranian oil minister [title as received], has stressed, in a statement to SPA, that the U.S. dollar has begun to regain its strength in the last few weeks. This, he said, justified the viewpoint of the Iranian Government regarding the problem. His excellency urged the U.S. Government to take adequate measures to prop up the dollar. Failing that, he said, oil-exporting countries will be left with no alternative but to seek suitable rates for oil prices.

Qatari Oil Minister Comments

GF071704Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1616 GMT 7 May 79 GC

[Excerpts] At-Ta'if--Qatari Oil and Finance Minister Shaykh 'Abd al'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has stated that during its extraordinary session in At-Ta'if, the OPEC Ministerial Council has managed to draw up the first OPEC strategy and policy plan for the next 5 years.

The aim of the plan, he said, is to promote a policy on which all OPEC member states will agree. He added that this will be helpful in making decisions and in producing results that will add to the strength and unity of OPEC, which is looked on as an example by the Third World.

Asked if there is any inclination to substitute another currency for the dollar, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani said that this matter is not under discussion at present. The dollar, he said, is now in a much better position than before. He said he believes it will be even better in the future; all indications are pointing in that direction.

Secretary General's Statement

LD0720347 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 May 78 LD

[Text] The OPEC oil ministers conference ended its meetings in At-Ta'if this evening. The organization's secretary general, Mr Ali Jidah, stated after the final 2-hour session that the conference had achieved the aim for which it was held, namely, to exchange views on OPEC's policy and its future strategy.

The OPEC oil ministers, he added, exchanged views on the question of supply and demand of oil, in addition to other issues which concern the organization at present and in the future.

Mr Ali Jidah added that the conference adopted a resolution to set up a six-member ministerial committee, which will include the oil ministers of the Kingdom, Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Venezuela and Kuwait, to study future oil policy in light of what was discussed during the conference meetings. He explained that the committee will define the outlines of the new oil strategy of the organization's member states. There will be no fixed period for the work of the committee. He added that the oil-exporting countries are trying now to solve their current problems, and that these countries will implement the oil strategy which will be decided by the six-member committee when the committee completes the study of this strategy.

In reply to a question about substituting another currency for the dollar in calculating oil prices, Mr Ali Jidah said that the details of that issue were not discussed. Referring to oil surplus in markets, he said oil surplus occurs every now and then in accordance with the principle of supply and demand. He said that the current oil surplus in the markets will continue for a few years.

PRINCE FAHD RECEIVES ALGERIAN ENVOY, LETTER FROM BOUMEDIENE

LD0700097 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Royal Highness the Viceroy and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at 1900 today at the royal court in Al-Ma'dar Palace Mr 'Abd al-Hamid Mouhiri, the personal envoy of Algerian President Houari Boumediene, who delivered to his royal highness a private message from the president.

Algerian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohamed Kadri was present. The president's envoy arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

NUMAYRI BRIEFS AS-SADAT ON VISIT TO SYRIA, IRAQ

NC0881010Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] This morning President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in Alexandria following the latter's return from his tour which took him to Damascus and Baghdad.

The radio correspondent has learned that President Numayri briefed President Anwar as-Sadat on the results of the consultations he held in Damascus and Baghdad on the restoration of Arab solidarity, within the context of the mission which President Numayri is carrying out in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee.

As-Sadat Comments

NC0814101Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 8 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat said following his talks today with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri that he does not see that there are difficulties in the way of holding an Arab summit conference, particularly after what he has heard from President Numayri.

Replying to correspondents' questions, the president said: Our position is the same as announced before, namely that we have no objections and are prepared to attend a summit conference at any time.

Referring to his talks today the president said: President Numayri briefed me on the results of his trip to Iraq and Syria. I prefer not to announce anything about it until President Numayri does that himself. President as-Sadat added: President Ja'far Numayri will complete his tour of the Arab states.

It is known that President Numayri's tour is undertaken within the context of the mission of the Arab solidarity committee which he heads. He started this tour last Thursday by visiting Alexandria. So far he has visited Syria and Iraq and held talks with the heads of these states aimed at restoring Arab solidarity and ending disputes among the Arab states.

Numayri Leaves for Tunisia

NC0908271Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0757 GMT 9 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 9 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and the delegation accompanying him left Alexandria for Tunis at 0915 today at the conclusion of the 2-day visit to Egypt. The visit was undertaken within the context of President Numayri's task aimed at restoring Arab solidarity as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers conference which was recently held in Cairo.

An official source of the Sudanese delegation accompanying President Numayri stated that President Numayri will visit all the Arab states within the context of his mission of restoring Arab solidarity. The source said President Numayri's tour will be in stages. The source noted that the beginning of the tour has been an encouraging one and that the points of agreement among the Arab states now outnumber the points of disagreement.

KAMIL TO ADDRESS UN SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

NC0818000Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 May--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will give an important speech at the UN special session on disarmament scheduled to be held in New York on 20 May at the request of Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and the nonaligned group. The foreign minister, who will head the Egyptian delegation, will emphasize Egypt's position on disarmament.

MENA has learned that while Kamil is in the United States he will hold extensive bilateral discussions with the delegations attending the session and with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the latest developments affecting the Middle East crisis and the efforts to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the crisis.

AL-AHRAM ON 'LARGE-SCALE POLITICAL MOVES'

NC0906167 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 May--In its 9 May edition, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that a phase of large-scale Egyptian political moves covering a number of Arab and European capitals will begin within days. It adds that these moves will begin with a visit to Saudi Arabia by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

AL-AHRAM says there will also be a vast diplomatic move on all levels to explain the Arab viewpoint.

SOMALI PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH AS-SADAT

NC0812477 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] The official talks between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre began in Alexandria at noon today. The discussions dealt with African and Arab issues and ways of bolstering relations between the two countries in various fields.

Barre Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC0908127 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 9 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 May--Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre left Cairo for Saudi Arabia at 0915 today following a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Anwar as-Sadat on the situation in the African Continent, developments in the Horn of Africa and the situation and foreign interference in the Red Sea area. This morning the Somali president left Alexandria for Cairo where he was given an official farewell. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak headed those who saw him off.

WEST GERMAN JUSTICE MINISTER LEAVES AFTER VISIT

NC0813247 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 May--FRG Minister of Justice Hans-Jochen Vociel left Cairo this afternoon for home following a 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Statement on Visit

NC081435Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 May--The Arab Republic of Egypt and the FRG have affirmed the need to confront terrorism firmly and not to give in to the demands of terrorists. They have called for an international agreement to prevent the holding of hostages. The two states agreed to discuss the conclusion of an agreement on judicial cooperation and exchange of experts between them for the benefit of their judicial systems. This was contained in the joint statement issued in Cairo today at the conclusion of the visit which FRG Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vociel paid to Egypt.

The statement says that during this visit the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of administration of justice was discussed and the most important new laws in both countries were reviewed.

The statement says these talks were held within the context of the positive development of relations between Egypt and the FRG, and that the talks were held in an atmosphere characterized by frankness and friendship. The statement says the Egyptian justice minister was invited to visit the FRG.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON U.S. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

LD081717Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 May 78 p 8 LD

[Text] Sa'id Farid writes: The Egyptian side to the joint Egyptian-U.S. Economic Committee has returned from Washington after attending several meetings at which various aspects of cooperation between the two sides were discussed.

Ibrahim Sharkas, deputy chairman of the industrialization authority, stated that views were exchanged on encouraging the investment of U.S. capital in Egypt through the implementation of several joint projects in the country. The talks also dealt with the economic and social atmosphere for the foreign investor in Egypt.

Regarding the 5-year industrial development plan, Ibrahim Sharkas said that the American side, after receiving the list of projects proposed, promised to pass it on to interested American investors.

The joint committee, he said, is scheduled to meet on 2 October to discuss those projects in the 5-year plan in which the American side wishes to participate.

Ibrahim Sharkas said that Mr Scott, head of the American side, discussed a project for increasing long-term, low-interest loans to Egypt by U.S. aid. For its part, the Egyptian side agreed to set up an information center for foreign investors in Egypt. A program has been agreed upon for training middle managerial cadres and skilled workers from Egyptian industrial companies by sending them for training in the United States. U.S. aid is to finance this program.

AS-SADAT SWEARS IN CABINET, CHAIRS MEETING

NC091026Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 May 78 NC

[Text] The new cabinet members and the ministers whose portfolios have been changed in the cabinet reshuffle took the constitutional oath this morning before President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria.

The oath-taking cermony was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, and Director of the President's Office Hasan Kamil.

After the ceremony, the cabinet held its first meeting under the chairmanship of President Anwar as-Sadat.

AL-JAMASI VISITS MIRAGE AIRCRAFT FORMATION

NC062026Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 May--Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, has stated that the Mirage aircraft are the focal point of the Air Force and that they will remain the primary fighter planes now and in the future, in accordance with long-term strategy, whether they are purchased abroad or produced locally by the Arab Military Industries Organization.

During his visit today to an air base where a formation of Mirages is deployed, General al-Jamasi said: We want to get the American F-5 fighters to replace our Soviet MIG-17's and to complement our Mirages.

General al-Jamasi added: We have also signed contracts for the purchase of a large number of C-130 American transport planes, which have twice the load capacity of the Soviet Antonov planes currently used for air transport.

General al-Jamasi said: At present there is nothing new in the peace efforts. The peace process must take time and matters will become clear toward the end of the year. Therefore, the armed forces must continue their training and exert efforts because they are the real backbone and because our only task is to train and remain prepared.

The air technicians at the base then gave a demonstration in which they replaced the engine of a Mirage and transferred the load from a fighter to a fighter-bomber. The technicians broke the record time in both cases.

AFP on AL-Jamasi Remarks

NC071450Y Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[By Nabil Jumbert]

[Text] Cairo, May 7 (AFP)--Egypt is bracing itself for a refusal by the United States Congress to authorize the sale to the Egyptians of 50 F-5 fighters.

That is the view of observers here following remarks made yesterday by the commander in chief of Egyptian forces, General 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, who played down the importance of the F-5 for Egypt. He described the sophisticated airplanes as not vital for the Egyptian Air Force, in which they would have only a "complementary" role.

He did not however threaten to turn exclusively to France if the U.S. Congress refuses to deliver the F-5's, although he did say that French-made Mirage fighters were the backbone of the Egyptian Air Force, and that for years to come the Egyptians would be relying on the French aircraft industry.

General al-Jamasi also indicated that Egypt will no longer turn to the Soviet Union for weapons. "Western aircraft," he said, "are better, more up-to-date, and better-equipped than socialist bloc planes." He noted that MIG-17's were manufactured more than 25 years ago and the Soviet-supplied T-34 tanks date from the Second World War.

Observers now see Egypt's arms policy as follows: Either to equip itself mainly from West Europe by direct purchase, bankrolled by Saudi Arabia, or the manufacture of Western weapons in Cairo or Riyadh through the Arab Military Industry Organization.

At the same time, it will continue to ask the U.S. for arms, but without "overdoing it," so as not to embarass President Jimmy Carter. General al-Jamasi did in fact announce the conclusion of contracts which will supply "a large number" of U.S. manufactured C-130 transport planes to Egypt.

PILOTS REPORTEDLY TRAIN WITH UP-TO-DATE U.S. PLANES

NC0908519 Doha QNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 9 May 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 May--The Abu Dhabi newspaper SAWT AL-UMMAH today quotes Egyptian military sources as saying that a number of Egyptian pilots have been trained in an Arab state in flying the most up-to-date U.S. planes.

The newspaper, which does not name the Arab state concerned, notes that these pilots are among the ones who were awarded the Sinai Star medal for the combat efficiency they showed during the October 1973 war.

OCTOBER CHIEF EDITOR ON LOCAL CONDITIONS

NC0709169 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0734 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 May--Anis Mansur, the chief editor of OCTOBER magazine, today resumed the discussion which he began last week about local conditions in Egypt and the worries of the Egyptian people. He also refuted the rumors that President Anwar as-Sadat intends to combine the posts of head of government and president of the republic.

In his weekly article in the magazine, Anis Mansur refers to Egypt's present financial difficulties, saying that the reason for these difficulties is that Egypt's revenues do not meet the needs of the people because of the state of war Egypt is in--a state in which most of the national income is spent for buying guns instead of bread.

Anis Mansur points out the Egypt is truly poor but that this is nothing to be ashamed of and that it is only a temporary annoyance. He says: We expect the crisis to be solved in 2 years or less because we are, as President Anwar as-Sadat put it, in a bottleneck and the crisis will ease in a short time.

The writer criticizes the Egyptian people's strange social behavior, and primarily the phenomenon of consuming large and unnecessary quantities of food. He says this extravagance is one of the main reasons for Egypt's present financial difficulties.

Anis Mansur then refers to recent rumors that President Anwar as-Sadat intends to combine the posts of head of government and president of the republic, saying: Since he assumed office, President as-Sadat declared that he will not hold all powers in his hands. He wants Egypt to become a state of institutions, and each institution to be fully responsible and free to do what it likes. The writer stressed that President as-Sadat will not combine the two posts unless the situation warrants and only if Egypt is heading toward a crisis or a very grave stage.

The writer says: Now that Egypt has opted for the multiparty and many-opnions system, the leader of the majority party must be the prime minister, and the other parties can call him to task and criticize him as they want. He and his party must defend his philosophy and his way of applying democracy. The writer then describes the view that President as-Sadat might assume the premiership in an attempt to impress upon the people that Cairo in 1978 is a replica of Cairo in 1973. Waves of doubt, anxiety and confusion have been spread to impress upon the people that we are heading again toward events of the 18 and 19 January [1977] pattern, that firestwill spread from Cairo to the other Egyptian cities and that President as-Sadat will have no alternative but to head a new cabinet himself.

Anis Mansur then criticizes the way the Egyptian papers are dealing with Egyptian achievements and the positive aspects of the Egyptian people's experiments, saying: The mood prevailing in Cairo has enticed these papers to borrow the seats of the opposition to wage their campaign of attack and defamation as if they were completely hostile to Egypt.

The writer then attacks the attempts by some Egyptian papers and Egyptian writers in foreign papers, particularly in the Arabic-language papers published in Paris, to distort the image of Egypt, saying: Nobody can prevent an Egyptian writer in Paris from slinging mud in the face of Egypt, but Cairo must adopt a stand denouncing the attempts by those who undermine social peace, national unity and socialism, the three main pillars on which the parties are established.

In conclusion, the writer hints that in his recent speech on the occasion of Labor Day, President as-Sadat did not adopt quick or decisive measures but that he hinted at this. The writer warns that the president does not strike when it is not necessary but that when he does, he does strike at the root.

PLANNING MINISTER OPENS ARAB ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

JN062012Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 May--'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and minister of planning, this evening opened a pan-Arab conference which aims at formulating a strategy for Arab economic action, determining the role of Arab organizations and agencies entrusted with supporting such economic action, determining the future outlook of joint Arab action for the next 22 years and applying this outlook to the current Arab economic situation. More than 200 individuals and Arab economic organizations are participating in this conference which will attempt to develop formulas for basic social structures and to determine their long-range effects on Arab development in the spheres of agriculture, industry and finance.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN081656Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, received here this evening the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad, Anatoliy Barkovskiy. During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador conveyed to the vice chairman a message from the Soviet leaders to the Iraqi leadership dealing with the Soviet viewpoint on the current Arab situation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali.

ATH-THAWRAH: SADDAM HUSAYN VIEWS BA'TH REVOLUTION

JN081727Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] The Information and Culture Bureau organized a meeting with two military and two civilian groups of the party organization in Al-Ta'mim and Basra Districts. The meeting was attended by Comrade Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and deputy secretary of its Regional Command, who followed the discussions and the answers of the comrades on several politicial, organizational and intellectual questions with the aim of observing the standard of ideological and political awareness through direct contact with party organizations.

In this connection, Comrade Saddam Husayn gave an interview to the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH published today. In view of the significance of this interview, we will divide it into two parts [no further mention of second part in broadcast]. The first part: Revolutionary culture is a basic condition for progress.

Such meetings as the one just held are a cultural and educational opportunity for the comrades as well as an opportunity for the leadership to have contact with the party cadres and to get acquainted with their ideological progress and general education. Such meetings are one of the ideological means to get acquainted with intellectual and cultural reality and also to deal with it with the aim of improving the spirit of work and innovation in these two fields and in other fields.

Party writings on ideological questions are difficult to (?organize) [words indistinct]. When we speak about the issue of socialism and the keys to its implementation, as it is being established for the first time, we find some difficulty because the theory of revolutionary action in this field and other fields can only be placed in a framework of accuracy and comprehension after the revolutionary party assumes power.

Party attempts before that are usually centered on general ideological concepts. Here is where the responsibility comes to the comrade party writers, whether they are specialists in general revolutionary action or revolutionary specialists in the fields of life and its special activities.

We feel that one of our central slogans should be "The Pen and the Gun in One Line," because we cannot imagine a revolutionary ideologist who is not ready to use the gun and who does not have the ability to use the gun in defense of the party and the revolution in a good manner.

While it is important to use your muscles well, you should also use your mind well. In order for your mind to be able to act in the proper revolutionary line, [words indistinct] you should use your muscles to the maximum when necessary.

As the party leadership always affirms, you must remember that you have the duty and task of formulating the theory of action for your party on behalf of your party branches in the Arab homeland. This is particularly true in this phase, as you did not have a role in formulating the central concepts of the party because of the fact that the party was first founded in Syria, where the early pioneering comrades, particularly the comrade founder leader, [Michel 'Aflaq], formulated the theoretical concepts of your party. Therefore you are now required to contribute a great deal to the theory of action of your party. Furthermore, you must contribute to strengthening and developing the theoretical concepts.

Let your feeling of the significance of culture be based on the seriousness of the need [words indistinct] because the liberation movements in the world and your party in the entire Arab homeland view you as the ones who are required to submit, on its behalf, a draft of the theory of action. Furthermore, the revolutionary movements in the world and our people want to know whether the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is truly capable of submitting a revolutionary action theory for life--comprehensive, deep and accurate--or is it merely claiming to possess special characteristics based on the reality of the Arab nation [words indistinct].

VICE PRESIDENT LEAVES MAURITANIA, ARRIVES IN MALTA

JN071900Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Valetta, 7 May--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Valetta today on the last leg of his tour which included [words indistinct] and Mauritania.

Ma'ruf was accorded an official welcome at the airport where he was received by Deputy Prime Minister Joseph Cassar [title and name as received] and a number of ministers and senior officials.

The vice president also concluded his visit to Mauritania today. In a statement before his departure from Nouakchott airport, he expressed his gratitude to president Moktar Ould Daddah and the Mauritanian people for the hospitality and welcome accorded to him and the Iraqi delegation during their visit to Mauritania. He said that he would convey this brotherly feeling to the government, people and political leadership of Iraq.

During their meeting before Ma'ruf's departure today, the Mauritanian president entrusted Ma'ruf to convey his greetings to President al-Bakr and Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn. Ma'ruf expressed his gratitude and thanks to President Ould Daddah and asserted the profound ties between the two countries. Ma'ruf said he was confident that future relations between the two countries would be firm and deep and that the future would witness their progress and prosperity. Ma'ruf wished Mauritania progress and prosperity.

Returns to Baghdad

JN082000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf returned here today at the end of an 11-day tour of Spain, Cuba and Malta [Mauritania omitted]. Ma'ruf was accompanied on this tour by foreign minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and a number of Iraqi officials.

Upon arrival Ma'ruf said that his talks with the officials of the countries he visited dealt with means of strengthening bilateral relations and with the situation in the Arab area.

He said that he also discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa and the international situation.

Ma'ruf said that he is conveying greetings from the heads of state of these countries to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

During the visit to Havana, the Iraqi delegation signed a cooperation plan between the Iraqi and Cuban foreign ministries. The delegation in Mauritania signed an agreement to increase trade cooperation between Mauritania and Iraq.

Received by President

JN090855Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 May 78 JN

[Text] President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received in his office at the Presidential Palace this morning Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, following the latter's return from an official visit to Spain, Cuba, Mauritania and Malta. The vice president reported on the results of his 11-day visit and on the discussions which he held with officials of these countries for the purpose of strengthening existing relations between Iraq and these countries.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES CUBAN OFFICIAL MELENDEZ BACHS

JN071130Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, received here at noon today Ernesto Melendez Bachs, vice-president of the Cuban National Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Collaboration, and the delegation accompanying him. Bachs conveyed to Saddam Husayn greetings from Dr Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, and Dr Carlos Raphael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers.

Saddam Husayn asked the Cuban official to convey his greetings and good wishes to Dr Fidel Castro and Dr Rodriguez and to the friendly Cuban people for further progress and prosperity. They then reviewed the cooperation and relations of friendship existing between Iraq and Cuba.

IRAQI-HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETS IN BUDAPEST

JN0816O0Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Budapest, 8 May--The meetings of the fourth session of the joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee on economic cooperation began here today. Four joint subcommittees have been formed by the two sides to discuss developing bilateral cooperation in the agricultural, industrial, mineral, housing, transport and cadre training fields. An INA correspondent in Budapest reports that an agreement on cooperation in these fields will be signed after the meetings to increase the volume of trade and economic exchange between the two countries.

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES PRC PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CHAIRMAN

JN0611I9Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has congratulated Yeh Chien-ying on his election as chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC. A cable sent by President al-Bakr to Yeh Chien-ying on the occasion says: On behalf of the Iraqi people and government, and in my own name, it gives me pleasure to send you sincerest wishes and congratulations, wishing your excellency continued good health, and further progress and prosperity to the friendly Chinese people.

Cables Czechoslovak President

JN090805Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has sent a congratulatory cable to Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak on the occasion of the Czechoslovak National Day.

The cable reads: On the occasion of the Czechoslovak National Day, it pleases me to send to you on behalf of the Iraqi people and government, and in my own name, our heartfelt congratulations and greetings. We wish your excellency continued health and the friendly Czechoslovak people progress and prosperity.

ERITREAN LIBERATION OFFICIAL LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN0812I6Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May--(Muhammad Sa'id Nadu), head of the Political Bureau of the Eritrean Liberation Front--Popular Liberation Forces, left Baghdad today at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq.

The discussions (Nadu) held with the officials of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party dealt with the situation in Eritrea at the current time and the dangers facing the Eritrean revolution.

In a press statement (Nadu) stated that the comrades in the National Command have reaffirmed their continued and complete support for the Eritrean revolution and the just struggle waged by the Eritrean people. (Nadu) called on all progressive forces in the Arab area and the world to work to check the Ethiopian onslaught and to support the Eritrean people who are struggling to regain their usurped rights to their land.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES ARMORED DIVISION

JN0819327 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces, has continued his inspection tour of the armed forces units. This morning his majesty met with the officers of the 5th Royal Armored Division. His majesty was received on his arrival at the division command by Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces His Excellency Lt Gen Staff ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the chief of staff and his aides, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the director of the Royal Medical Services and the commander of the division.

His majesty made a speech to the officers of the division. He said: We are advocates of a just and honorable peace which will insure a decent and proud life for the coming generations. We will not relinquish any of our rights or one inch of the land, whatever the results.

His majesty said: The range of the Jordan Mountains constitutes the frontal shield and protective barrier for the heart of the Arab nation. After these mountains, the land is open and the way is safe for our sanctities and for the resources which God willed to gush forth from the Arab land for the benefit of the Arabs.

His majesty further said: The East Bank of the Jordan River is covered by the Balfour Declaration. Israel is constantly planning to change the status quo of the East Bank of the Jordan River at the proper time. However, there will be no way for Israel so long as we are alive. We said from the beginning that Israel must choose between land and peace. However, Israel wants both. There are no signs that Israel wants peace. No one knows what the limits of the Israeli ambitions in the Arab land are.

His majesty continued saying: We have faith in the aims and destiny of the Arab nation. All acts must be taken through joint coordination.

Further Report

JN0820377 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Regarding the Palestinian issue, His Majesty King Husayn said: The Palestinian issue is not the issue of the right of the Palestinian individual on the East Bank. The Palestinian individual is an Arab. He has the same rights as us in our country. He comes from us, and we come from him. However, this is not the point. The point is his right to live on his land--the Arab Palestinian land. We must stand fast, struggle and be martyred until this individual gains his rights on his land.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed Jordan's belief in the unity of the Arab objectives and destiny. He said: All acts must be taken through joint coordination. We have taken big strides and realized achievements which give us some reassurance.

His majesty pointed out that the pan-Arab responsibility means confronting the Israeli designs and challenges which are limitless.

His majesty concluded his speech by calling on the armed forces to rally their ranks in all fields for further strength and impregnability in order to bring about a decent and honorable life and just peace in the Arab land for the coming generations.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS WITH ARAB DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER

NC081215Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] Within the context of Lebanon's security developments, President Sarkis held a working meeting today with Defense and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, commander of the Arab deterrent forces Lt Col Sami al-Khatib and director general of the internal security forces Staff Col Ahmad al-Haj.

Following the meeting, Minister Butrus said that discussions dealt with the deployment of the Lebanese security forces in the south, in areas evacuated by the Israeli forces last week, as well as other matters related to the south.

Asked about the participation of the commander of the Arab deterrent forces in the meeting, Butrus said: Naturally, the deployment of the Lebanese security forces in the south is linked to the Arab deterrent forces.

SHAM'UM, SARKIS DISCUSS GOVERNMENT FORMATION

NC081830Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 May 78 NC

[Text] Following the 90-minute meeting between President Sarkis and former President Sham'un at the presidential palace this evening, former President Sham'un said: We are still holding contacts on a subject that is well known to you: the formation of the government. We have not yet achieved any result. It is possible that we will require 3 or 4 days to do so. He added: Do not forget that I am abiding by the resolution issued by the political Council of the National Liberal Party. Since nothing contradicting that resolution has been issued, I cannot do anything to oppose it.

Sham'un affirmed that the subject of the government formation has been deferred until the results of the contacts become clear.

Concerning his prolonged meeting with President Sarkis, Sham'un said: We had lengthy discussions concerning the government. We also discussed other subjects--internal as well as external--such as the problems of the south, the UN position, its retreat from previous positions and its destitution when it was forced to request the Fiji Islands to send 600 soldiers from a 750-man army. Sham'un added that this is not to the United Nations' advantage. He said: Such discussions dominated the meeting, and this is why it was long.

Asked whether President Sarkis had submitted a new formula to him on the forthcoming government, Sham'un said: No. These were fragmented discussions and no complete formula was submitted. Tonight the Political Council of the National Liberal Party will meet in order to adopt a resolution on this subject. Sham'un added: The front will hold its regular weekly session tomorrow.

UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS TRANSFERRED FOR SECURITY REASONS

JN081206Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 May--The UNIFIL headquarters was transferred today from the Az-Zahrani oil refinery building south of Tyre to An-Naqurah village, the last of the Lebanese villages along the southern coastal strip and headquarters of the UN observers.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reported that approximately 60 trucks, 2 helicopters and 250 soldiers left this morning in the direction of the southern border. The correspondent cited UN sources as saying this measure has been taken for security reasons.

The INA correspondent also quoted well-informed southern Lebanese sources as saying that UNIFIL forces are using special arms detection devices at their roadblocks to prevent the joint forces from launching attacks against the Zionist occupation forces.

NEW FRENCH COMMANDER ASSUMES DUTIES, SEES PALESTINIAN DELEGATE

JN0514152 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1314 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 5 May--Lt Col Dominique Viard has assumed his responsibilities as commander of the French contingent in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. He replaces the former commander, Col Jean German Salvan, currently under treatment in a Beirut hospital after having been injured in the clashes which occurred in the city of Tyre last Tuesday.

The INA correspondent in the south reported that Lieutenant Colonel Viard, who arrived in Beirut yesterday, held a meeting with senior French officers at the Tyre garrison. Afterward he met with Maj Muhammad (Tamraz), representative of the Palestinian resitance, with whom he reviewed the situation in the city. Major (Tamraz) stated that the aim of the meeting was to secure calm in the city and to restore the situation to its previous state.

Salvan Still in Hospital

NC0619162 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Text] A medical bulletin issued by the Hotel Dieu Hospital says that the condition of French Col Jean Germain Salvan is constantly improving and that he has been removed from the intensive care unit to an ordinary room.

It has been decided that no further medical bulletins will be released since the colonel's condition has become stable.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS CLASHES BETWEEN ALF, FATAH

NC0719502 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 May 78

[Text] Travelers from the south say that An-Nabatiyah area was the scene of clashes between Palestinian organizations last night and this morning. Seven members of the Arab Liberation Front were killed and seven Fatah members were wounded. A number of installations were damaged.

ATH-THAWRAH: SUMMIT POSSIBLE IF AS-SADAT ADMITS FAILURE

JN051550Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today carried the following commentary: The talk of Arab solidarity these days provokes numerous questions as to the basis of this solidarity, its central aim and the extent of its ability and effectiveness to contribute directly toward changing the present Arab state of affairs and protecting the pan-Arab cause against the attempts at liquidation, capitulation and separate solutions. Within this framework, it can be said that the traditional formula for Arab solidarity has become unacceptable under the present circumstances. To follow this formula would mean agreeing to the plans of the Zionist and imperialist forces which aim at liquidating the entire Arab cause. It would also mean giving a fresh impetus to Anwar as-Sadat in order for him to continue on the path of capitulation and to plot against the Arab nation.

Syria has always called for the strengthening of Arab solidarity and transforming it into an effective weapon in the battle to liberate the occupied territories and to regain the usurped rights. This Syrian call stems from Syria's conviction that this fact must prompt the Arab nation to take the initiative in the Middle East in the required manner, to steer the Arab-Zionist struggle in a way which will necessarily lead to the achievement of qualitative changes in accordance with certain Arab agreements, and to utilize these changes in the pan-Arab battle during this struggle.

To talk about Arab solidarity in its traditional image, and with the aim of insuring a political cover which would help the president of the Egyptian regime to consolidate his capitulationist initiative, is to distort this solidarity, to strip it of its essence and to change it into a hollow drum making noise without any real effect.

Stemming from its desire to maintain the momentum toward unity in the Arab region, Arab Syria approves the holding of a new Arab summit provided that a basic and unwavering condition is met; namely, that As-Sadat issue an official statement admitting the failure of his capitulationist initiative and informing his people and the whole Arab nation that the direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy have dealt serious and irreparable damage to the Arab cause, and that the Arabs must resort to force to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to regain the usurped rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

Since As-Sadat refuses to admit failure, opposes right and just logic and daily asserts that he will not renounce his capitulationist line, the talk about Arab solidarity under the present circumstances is talk of illusions and fairy tales. It is a call which aggravates rather than alleviates the damage.

PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY 'ARAFAT RECEIVED BY AL-ASAD

JN081623Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1430 today Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and members of the Fatah Central Committee Salah Khalaf, Muhammad Ghunaym and Khalid al-Hasan.

The discussions dealt with President Ja'far Numayri's mission during his recent visit and the general situation in the Arab region. The discussions also dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN082128Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at 2030 today Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by Salah Khalaf, Khalid al-Hasan, Mahmud 'Abbas and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym.

The discussion dealt with the situation in the Arab area and Syrian-Palestinian relations.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES UNDOF WITH SIILASVUO

JN081645Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur received in his office at noon today Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, chief coordinator of the UN forces in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by Brig Gen 'Adnan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian side to UNDOF.

General Siilasvuo briefed the assistant foreign minister on the activities, difficulties being faced, and the tasks being carried out by the UN forces in southern Lebanon.

OIL MINISTER LEAVES FOR KUWAIT OAPEC MEETINGS

JN071450Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 7 May--'Isa Darwish, minister of oil and natural resources, left Damascus this afternoon for Kuwait to attend the meetings of the 20th session of the OAPEC Council of Ministers, scheduled to be held there from 9 to 11 May.

The minister stated that the OAPEC Council of Ministers will discuss several important topics, among which is the drawing up of a joint Arab policy on setting up refineries and making studies of a joint Arab project to manufacture lubricants.

SYRIAN SPEAKER HAS DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIAN ENVOY

JN081510Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 8 May--Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus today discussed relations between the two countries and means to strengthen and develop these relations in various fields. They also discussed issues of common interest and the future of parliamentary relations between the two countries.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES VISITING UAE OFFICIAL

JN041653Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1345 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Rashid 'Uwaydah, the first deputy speaker of the UAE Federal National Assembly and president of the UAE Press Syndicate.

Shaykh 'Uwaydah was received earlier by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The discussion during this meeting dealt with the current Arab situation, developments in the Arab region and the best means to confront defeatist and capitulationist plans, utilize Arab resources and continue the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territory and regain the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam also received Shaykh 'Uwaydah today.

CYPRIOT EDEK PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES ON VISIT

JN0821362 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] A delegation of the Cypriot Unified Democratic Union of the Center headed by party chairman Dr Vassos Lyssarides arrived in Damascus this evening on a 4-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and chairman of the Foreign Relations Office, was at the head of those who received the guest delegation.

Dr Lyssarides made a statement upon his arrival in which he praised the role being played by Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in the struggle against Zionism and imperialist domination. Dr Lyssarides expressed his confidence that the Arab people will achieve their objectives in liberating their occupied land and regaining the Palestinian people's national rights. He also praised the relations of friendship which link the Syrian and Cypriot peoples.

SYRIAN BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ROMANIA

JN0513392 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] A delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, left for Bucharest at noon today on a visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party. The delegation was seen off by several comrade members of the National Command, a number of the party comrades, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania in Damascus and the embassy staff.

During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with the leaders of the Romanian Communist Party on relations between the two parties and the two countries and on issues of common interest in order to develop relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and parties. A protocol on cooperation between the two parties for the next 2 years will be signed during the visit. The delegation will also learn about the social and economic development in the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Talks Begin in Bucharest

JN0520132 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] Bucharest--The official talks between the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the party, and the Romanian Communist Party side headed by Comrade Dascalescu, member of the Political Executive Committee, began today.

Comrade al-Ahmar and the members of his delegation arrived in Bucharest this afternoon on a week-long visit to Romania. They were met at Bucharest airport by Comrade Dascalescu, member of the Communist Party Political Executive Committee, and several members of the Central Committee as well as by the Syrian ambassador to Romania, the embassy staff and Arab and Syrian students in Romania.

Comrade al-Ahmar's talks during this visit will seek to strengthen cooperation between the two parties. An agreement on cooperation between the two parties for the next 2 years will be signed at the conclusion of the talks.

Tours Romanian County

JN072138Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] The delegation of the Ba'th Party under Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, continued its visit in the Romanian County of Constanta. The delegation inspected a number of agricultural, industrial and tourist establishments in the district.

Returns To Bucharest

JN090713Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 May 78 JN

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, party assistant secretary general, returned to Bucharest last evening at the end of a 3-day visit to the County of Constanta. During the visit, the delegation looked over major projects there and visited industrial, agricultural and tourist establishments.

Meanwhile, committees from the delegations of the two parties held several meetings to prepare the text of the cooperation agreement which is to be signed between the two parties and the text of another cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries.

AL-ASAD CONGRATULATED BY CAMBODIAN STATE CHAIRMAN

JN291150Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of congratulations from Khieu Samphan, chairman of the State Presidium in democratic Cambodia, on the anniversary of Syria's National Day. The text of the cable is as follows:

On the occasion of Syria's National Day, it gives me pleasure to send your excellency and the friendly Syrian people warmest congratulations on behalf of the Cambodian people and government. We wish your excellency continued good health and happiness and to the Syrian people further victories in building their country and defending the independence, sovereignty and safety of Syria against the Zionist Israelis. May the bonds of friendship between our two nonalined countries and peoples be further strengthened and developed.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD MAKES STATEMENT TO ABU DHABI PAPER

JN081338Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed that Syria is concerned about achieving Arab solidarity. He said, however, that this solidarity must be in the interest of the Arab nation and against Israel.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-WAHDAH published in Abu Dhabi today, Al-Asad said that the life of the Arab nation depends on restoring its pride. This means action to restore the occupied Arab land and the Palestinian people's rights.

Al-Asad said that Syria supports the establishment of a just and honorable peace. However, this peace must be based on achieving the pan-Arab aims of the Arab nation as outlined unanimously at the Arab summit conferences.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI DISCUSSES REGIONAL PROBLEMS, RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD081035Y London THE GUARDIAN in English 8 May 78 p 20 LD

[John Andrews interview "last month" with Libyan General People's Congress Secretary General Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi]

[Text] "Africa is for Africans and Africa has no pact but with itself." These words of welcome in Tripoli from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Guinea's President Ahmad Sekou Toure may, realistically, be devoid of immediate meaning, but they underline Libya's increasing preoccupation with the problems of Africa, both Arab and black, rather than the intractable complexities of the Middle East.

Sekou Toure's visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah last month came fast on the heels of visits by Ould Daddah of Mauritania and Felix Malloum of Chad, of Libyan mediation in Malloum's conflict with the Libyan-backed FROLINAT and between the Sudanese regime and its opposition, and of the Tripoli summit of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi warned in his speech: "On the horizon there appears a new colonialist attempt to return to Africa. There are even new practical steps for colonisation taken by certain African states against Africa." But he added: "The recolonisation of Africa and the looting of its wealth will be paid for dearly this time. Africa of the 1970's is not the Africa of the 50's and 60's...and what indicates that Africa has changed is that Africa has acquired the ability to shoulder its responsibilities... we are now on the verge of ending a civil war amongst the Chad people. This reconciliation was achieved by African will, and will not be foiled by imperialist interference."

But within days of Al-Qadhdhafi's speech, the real limits to Libyan power in Africa were sharply demonstrated by fresh violence in Chad. Ignoring Libyan requests to respect the ceasefire, FROLINAT rebels ambushed Chadian troops and continued their advance on the capital of N'djamena, now hastily reinforced by still more French troops and air-support.

Despite the rhetoric of the Jamahiriyah, the limits to its influence are no surprise--Libya has a great deal of money and the propensity of the rich to make extravagant promises. But with a population of only two-and-a-half million, its armed forces are in no position to back up words with muscle--a fact of life, already demonstrated by the collapse of the Libyan-engineered ceasefire in the Philippines, which will doubtless be well remembered by Mauritania, if Ould Daddah's visit to Tripoli leads to Libyan attempts at a Saharan solution.

President al-Qadhdhafi's many critics, ranging from Western pundits and King Hassan of Morocco, say the new interest in Africa is all part of a Soviet grand design spreading from the Western Sahara to the Horn of Africa and from the Mediterranean to the borders of white-ruled southern Africa.

As evidence they cite Libya's enormous purchase of Soviet arms (some 2,000 tanks and armoured vehicles for an army of less than 30,000), the financial support for POLISARIO against French-supported Chad, and the abandonment of the Eritreans in favour of the Ethiopian Dergue.

Not surprisingly, Al-Qadhdhafi disagrees. In an interview on the eve of Sekou Toure's visit, he argued: "What has changed is the situation in Ethiopia, not our policy. Ethiopia was a reactionary state--now, it's a progressive state. We supported war against Haile Selassie, but after Ethiopia turned into a progressive state we support negotiations. The question of Chad is an internal matter. All we did was to try to seek reconciliation. This accusation (of carrying out a Soviet design) was there before the Chad question."

As for Morocco's accusations of Soviet-sponsored interference in the Saharan dispute, Al-Qadhdhafi said: "We created POLISARIO in 1972 and at that time we were not accused of being under the influence of the Soviet Union--we were not even accused of being on good terms with the Soviet Union."

To explain Libya's volte-face from the vitriolic denunciation of "anti-Islamic" communism in the early days of the revolution of 1969 to the current close friendship with Moscow, Al-Qadhdhafi switched to As-Sadat's "betrayal" of the Arab cause: "When Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir was there and in the first period of As-Sadat--when we thought As-Sadat was following 'Abd an-Nasir's path--the friendship of the Soviet Union to the Arab nation was sure. We were practising the policy of 'self-criticism.'

"Now that the Arab nation has lost the friendship of the Soviet Union thanks to the policy of As-Sadat and the death of 'Abd an-Nasir, we find that it's our national duty to abandon self-criticism and to follow up by building bridges of friendship with the Soviet Union. We do this for the benefit of international peace."

Those who are close to Al-Qadhdhafi say he was deeply hurt by the collapse of his dreams for Arab unity, but the impression he himself fosters is one of uncaring resignation. Arab unity, he says, will come from the Arab people, not their governments. As to As-Sadat, mediation and reconciliation can come only through As-Sadat's "repentance." But though Al-Qadhdhafi was careful to avoid personal invective against As-Sadat, his condemnation of the As-Sadat peace initiative was as strong as ever. "Nothing has changed in the Middle East, even if As-Sadat visits Jerusalem a thousand times and the pig Begin--translate that exactly--visits Cairo a thousand times. The problem is not a crisis arising between two neighbouring states. It's not a result of a misunderstanding between two states or a border problem--it's the Palestine cause, the cause of a people who have been driven out of their country and another people who claim that this is their country.

"The role of the Jamahiriyah is to support those who have the right until right is victorious, and because the Jamahiriyah wants peace to prevail in the Middle East, the question of Palestine should be solved."

Libya's critics say that "support for the right" means aid for international terrorism and sanctuary for hijackers--the basic reason why America refuses Libya's appeals for an exchange of ambassadors. But Al-Qadhdhafi sees no contradiction between Libya's record and his assertion of opposition to terrorism.

"Nobody," he said, "can provide any evidence to support this accusation--it's just propaganda. We stand against terrorism and we are the only state in the world which has very strict and harsh laws against terrorism. The aim of this propaganda is to stop us supporting the just causes in the world, like the Palestinian cause. Because they consider the fedayeen to be terrorists and because we support the fedayeen, they consider us to be supporting terrorists--but the truth is that the fedayeen are freedom fighters."

But asked whether such a view can extend to actions outside Israeli-occupied land, Al-Qadhdhafi ducked the issue by saying: "This concerns the fedayeen. We support them, we support the struggle of the Palestinian people--they are responsible for the means they use."

For a Third World leader, Al-Qadhdhafi is enviably secure. On his eastern frontier As-Sadat's Egypt struggles merely to stay afloat in its sea of economic woes. To the west Tunisia wrestles with the problems of organised labour and the appointment of an heir to Bourguiba.

But the Jamahiriyah is cushioned by a balance of payment surplus expected to reach $2,500 million by the end of 1980, and the rumblings of discontent which led to more than 20 executions last year have now been stilled by the jingoism induced by last year's war with Egypt and by strenuous tours around the country by Al-Qadhdhafi himself. This financial and political security can lead to some staggering simplifications: the answer to the Middle East conflict is a Palestinian state incorporating only the Jews who were there before 1948; the "undeclared religious war" in Egypt between the Muslims and the Copts is because of the "American presence" in Egypt; conversion to Islam--even by financial inducement--is in the interests of all people.

The simplifications are eagerly seized on by the critics, and the failure of the Libyan-inspired Arab "steadfastness front" to take concrete measures against the As-Sadat initiative aptly demonstrates the limits to the Jamahiriyah's self-inflated sense of power.

But the fact remains that Al-Qadhdhafi could well outlast his rivals in the Arab world and that his simplifications can strike a responsive chord. It is not easy to dismiss Al-Qadhdhafi when he accuses the developed world of increasing the gap between it and the Third World, and warns: "This policy will lead to revolution and will destroy the industrialised world because the Third World has nothing to lose--they have lost everything already."

FOREIGN SECRETARY AT-TURAYKI LEAVES FOR AFGHANISTAN

LD081400Y Tripli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 8 May--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, leading a Libyan Arab delegation, left this morning for Kabul on a visit to Afghanistan that will continue for several days. During the visit, he will have talks and contacts with officials in Afghanistan concerning strengthening relations between the two fraternal peoples. The delegation includes the director of the Asian Department and representatives of some other departments at the Foreign Secretariat. Dr at-Turayki and the delegation were seen off at Tripoli international airport by the acting foreign under secretary and the directors of departments at the Foreign Secretariat.

COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE LAW ADOPTED

LD062302Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] The following compulsory service law has been promulgated today:

The General Secretariat of the General People's Congress: In implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the people's conference, adopted during their ordinary session in March 1978, to impose compulsory military service, the following law has been promulgated:

Article I: The compulsory military service law will come into effect as of (?now) until the people are trained and armed and until the people attain their ultimate aim of assuming the task of defending themselves.

Article II: The 3 May 1967 compulsory military service law will be repealed.

Article III: This law will be published in the official gazette and will be enforced from the date it is published.

Issued 5 May 1978.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, ALGERIA

LD081415Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 29 Apr 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[Excerpt] Madrid, 28 April, MAP--Here is the text of the interview given by Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, to Domingo del Pino, special envoy of the Madrid journal DIARIO-16.

For the last 6 months the kingdom of Morocco has been relying on a real "political animal" in its foreign relations--Mr M'hamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist) and minister of foreign affairs. Mr Boucetta was born in Marrakech in 1925. He has occupied important political posts. He was a member of the Moroccan delegation which negotiated the agreements for Morocco's independence with Spain and France. Some 20 years later, Boucetta speaks on Morocco's relations with Spain and Algeria.

[Question] How do you see present relations between Morocco and Spain?

[Answer] The latest visit by His Majesty King Hassan II made it possible to clarify the situation and to lay the foundations for deeper cooperation and a harmonization of diplomatic and political relations between Spain and Morocco.

[Question] Is the change in Morocco's ambassador to Madrid a result of this situation? As you know, an ambassador often marks a stage in relations between the two countries.

[Answer] No, absolutely not. Mr Filali, the Moroccan ambassador, was recalled in order to perform other functions, and this is within the framework of a change which is affecting other diplomatic posts abroad. It has nothing to do with our relations with Spain. Nor does it indicate a deterioration in our relations with Spain. On the contrary, I assure you categorically that our relations are good, and notably at the highest level, that is, between the two kings, they are excellent.

[Question] At present the Moroccan economy finds itself in difficulties as a result of the world economic crisis and also as a result of the Sahara question and the assistance given to Mauritania by Morocco. To what extent is this true?

[Answer] I cannot deny that Morocco's efforts to honor its agreements with Mauritania have had repercussions on our life in general, but that does not mean that the Moroccan economy is in difficulties.

We hope to overcome our difficulties through mobilizing everyone and through our economies. Naturally, what we are giving Mauritania is not something we do not need ourselves, and we are adopting an austerity policy in some sectors, but without ever stopping our major projects. In any case, the Moroccan people understand the situation well.

Moreover, this year we will have a good harvest thanks to pleniful rain, and you know how important that is for our country.

[Question] Morocco and Algeria are living in a state of quasi-hostility, but if Moroccans say that Spain and Morocco are fated to live together, should not the same thing be done, for the same reasons, with Algeria?

[Answer] You are right in saying that we are also fated to live with Algeria. The abstract aspects of a problem can change, but not the geography. We consider ourselves a single people, we complement each other. Our lasting goal has been to create a regional unit: the greater Maghreb.

You described our situation as one of quasi-hostility, and unfortunately that is true. We are not responsible for this situation. However, we will not reject any opportunity to reach an agreement, which should be made on the basis of clear ideas. On the subject of the Sahara, Algeria has declared itself as clearly as possible by the best authorized voice, that of President Boumediene, who stated in 1974 that he has no territorial claim on the Sahara, that he is well aware of the agreement between Morocco and Mauritania and that he agrees to the partition on which the two countries have agreed.

President Boumediene only made two conditions: that the agreement between Morocco and Mauritania should really exist, and that there should be no armed conflict between Spain on the one hand and Morocco and Mauritania on the other.

"Because otherwise" (and these are Boumediene's words) "Algeria will take security measures, because of its proximity."

These two conditions have been met, and we do not understand the change in the Algerian position. We hope that reason will prevail and that this question, which is irreversible for us, will be understood by Algeria.

[Question] The conflict may have other causes which are not openly expressed. For instance, is Morocco disposed to find a solution to the problems resulting from the borders agreement relating to the territories attached to Algeria and claimed by Morocco, like Tidikelt, Gourara and Touat?

[Answer] Yes, of course. There is no difference which will not be overcome because, as I said, our aim is to create the greater Maghreb. And it is in this context that many problems, which in our day are considered very thorny, may find solutions.

[Question] I do not know how talks are conducted between two ministers, or even between two ambassadors, but I know that the Spanish people have the impression of being held by the throat by their two neighbors. When they are not under Algerian pressure on the subject of the Canaries, they are under Moroccan pressure on the subject of Ceuta and Melilla.

[Answer] Spain is a country which I wish every success, as I wish my own country. The similarities between our peoples and our countries are so great that I could not wish Spain anything other than success and stability.

Spain occupied part of my country and is continuing to keep lands which are a part of it. That is clear and I am not saying it merely for the sake of saying it. But Morocco realizes that without Spain's action in 1953-55 we could have had much more difficulty in regaining our sovereignty and securing the return of our king, who was exiled by France. That is not forgotten in a hurry, and the Moroccan people are very grateful for it.

I do not want Spain to find itself in difficulties with another country because it has adopted this or that policy in relation to Morocco. But Spain must be aware that it was not only yesterday that we started saying that Ceuta and Melilla are Moroccan territories and that this question must be resolved in friendship and cooperation, not in conflict.

We are ready to be as flexible as necessary to apply this principle. We did not wait for Spain to be in difficulties in the matter of the Canaries before giving it our support.

Even when we were a national liberation movement we supported it. Moreover, we did not wait for Spain to pose the problem of Gibraltar before coming to its assistance; this was done long before the decolonization of the Sahara.

To sum up, I wish to stress that between two peoples like those of Spain and Morocco relations should not be on a contingency basis. We say what we want clearly. That is why our position in the OAU on the subject of the Canaries was so clear. I said there that there is no colonial problem in the Canary Islands.

SUDAN

OMDURMAN REPORTS U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS IN SUDAN

LD0815Z47Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 May 78 LD/EA

[Text] Gen Bashir Muhammad 'Ali, minister of defense and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces [words indistinct], commander of the U.S. Middle East forces, who arrived in the country at the beginning of the week. SUNA reports that the visit is within the framework of cooperation between the People's Armed Forces and the U.S. Army.

The commander of the U.S. Middle East forces had earlier paid a short visit to Port Sudan harbor as part of his scheduled visit to Sudanese naval forces. He will be in the country for about a week, during which he will meet officers of various military units.

Meanwhile, talks about the final formulation of the deal for the 12 F-5 U.S. fighter planes started at the beginning of this week at the General Command of the People's Armed Forces. The Sudanese side in the talks is led by Maj Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid (Khalil), deputy chief of the General Staff for Operations, while the U.S. side is led by [word indistinct] (Peter Lester) of the U.S. Air Force.

It is worth noting that the 1-month time limit set for the U.S. Congress to take a decision on this deal has passed without objection after the U.S. Government (?informed) the Congress about it.

BEGIN GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON RETURN HOME

TA090720Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 May 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] To start this morning we will go over to Ben-Gurion Airport. Prime Minister Menahem Begin has returned from his visit to the United States. The prime minister spent a week in the United States, met with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and opened the 30th anniversary celebrations of Israel's independence in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Now the prime minister is due to hold a press conference at the airport. We are going over to our political correspondent, Shalom Qital: [begin live relay]

The prime minister is here already, in the hall where the press conference will be held. Dan Pattir....

[Pattir] ...in Hebrew; afterward we will go over to English. Mr Prime Minister....

[Begin] Good morning. The political talks at the White House and with the secretary of state were held in a comfortable atmosphere. The President of the United States and his advisers, my colleagues and I, held those talks and, indeed, both with the President and with the secretary, we discussed current problems. When the foreign minister returns from his trip abroad, the cabinet will discuss these problems. No conclusions were reached. The substantive debate will be held during the next 2 weeks in the cabinet.

There were meetings with Jews in the large communities: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles. Mass rallies were held in connection with the 30 years of existence of the State of Israel. These were most moving meetings, with the participation of masses--thousands and even tens of thousands. Jews everywhere expressed their joy at the existence of Israel, their link with the country and their concern for the future. The U.S. President held a reception at the White House in honor of this important anniversary. It was a most moving reception. The President made important remarks about the attitude toward Israel and the Jewish nation and its suffering. Representatives from Jewish communities from throughout the United States took part in the reception which left an impression on all those who were assembled on the White House lawn.

The greatest experience was in New York, when hundreds of thousands of Jews gathered in Central Park to celebrate the 30th anniversary. No such masses have been seen for a long time and all those who organized the celebrations could say that it was the greatest demonstration in the last 15 years. A general love of Israel was demonstrated. One had to be at this demonstration to feel the deep link between the Jews of the United States and our country.

I would like to thank the U.S. President for the warm hospitality our delegation was given and for the reception he hosted at the White House to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Israel, and all the Jewish communities we visited for the great warmth they gave us while we were in the United States.

[Qital] Mr Prime Minister, during your visit to the United States, I am referring in particular to the political talks in Washington, contradictory reports reached us or, to put it more politely, let us say, different reports on your degree of optimism about the continuation of the political road. Maybe you can say something here. What are the chances now?

[Begin] I do not think that I expressed what is called exaggerated optimism. I spoke about a good attitude in the atmosphere, or about a comfortable atmosphere, and that is correct; these things are comparable. As I pointed out, there were no conclusions. There are various proposals, there are various ideas, we will discuss them. As for the future, there is always hope.

[Qital] From those ideas, the questions that were put to Israel, is Israel being asked to change its peace program, or are the questions within the framework of Israel's peace program?

[Begin] Within the framework of the peace program. There is no doubt about this.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, do you think that the change in atmosphere in Washington also indicates a change in the policy of the U.S. administration?

[Begin] Let us hope for the best, but now I stress and I continue to point out that there was a situation one might call a comfortable atmosphere. I think that this has value.

[Qital] Is there any chance, Mr Prime Minister, from the talks you held in Washington, that, first, the United States will go back on the demand for a referendum at the end of 5 years in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza and, second, that it will be prepared for an Israeli military presence after the 5 years?

[Begin] An Israeli military presence in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza was discussed before and the various proposals made: the U.S. Government has proposals--it is not for me to speak for the United States--and various questions connected with what is called rediscussion after 5 years are also being reviewed. We will have a cabinet debate on all these questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, would you be ready to clarify the statements you made in the United States, as they were quoted in the Israeli press: they said that we must not now determine what will happen in 5 years in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Does this mean that you are speaking about a sort of interim settlement, that is, the autonomy program is a sort of temporary settlement?

[Begin] Everyone expressed his views. After all, we have presented peace proposals in detail. It says that after 5 years there will be a rediscussion and everyone, against this background, expressed his views and will express them in the future, but this is connected with a special debate in the cabinet and with its decisions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, [words indistinct] following the [words indistinct] declarations, do you see any significant chance for a change in [words indistinct]

[Begin] We will always hope. We have called for immigration from all the countries of the world and we continue to hope that Jews will come from both the East and the West. I want to comment here that we also pointed this out in all the declarations, both with regard to the Jews of Syria and those of the Soviet Union, but also with regard to Jews from the free countries.

[Pattir] Two last questions in Hebrew.

[Unidentified correspondent] After the special debate to be held in the cabinet, Mr Begin, how do you see the timetable of the political negotiations?

[Begin] After the foreign minister's return we will hold the debate we spoke about.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, regarding the aircraft deal, has there been any progress, in your view, or [words indistinct]

[Begin] As for our position, we insisted on the commitment given us 2 and 1/2 years ago regarding the supply of aircraft to Israel and we continue to oppose the supply of aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. We expressed this at every opportunity, over the radio, television, to journalists, on various occasions and we left no doubt regarding this position.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, a last question in Hebrew, if I may. Have any Egyptian reactions, even first ones, been received via the United States to the proposals put forward by the foreign minister in Washington?

[Begin] No. To date, no such reports from Egypt have arrived.

[Pattir] We will now move over to English.

[Qital] And now, as they move over to English, I will tell you that, among those here welcoming the prime minister are Deputy Prime Minister Professor Yadin, Ministers Weizman, Sharon, Moda'i, Horowitz, senior officials and this is Shalom Qital returning you to the studio. [relay ends]

RABIN: AS-SADAT'S CONDITIONS ARE NOT TO BE ACCEPTED

TA080918Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The main obstacle to peace with Israel on the part of most of the Arab countries is the unwillingness to accept a sovereign State of Israel. It is against this background that we should regard the change that took place in Egypt's position with As-Sadat's visit, when he declared that Israel should be accepted as an existing fact--something which has not been heard for the last 29 years.

MK Yizhaq Rabin said this at a meeting of the Labor Party in Herzliya, where he lectured on the topic "Foreign Affairs and Security Policy."

Rabin pointed out that no responsible person could accept the conditions set by As-Sadat and there must be unanimity on this between the coalition and the opposition. We should not, however, be satisfied with this rejection and should present a positive policy.

IDF SEES NO SIGNS OF TERRORIST REESTABLISHMENT

TA081736Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] A report that has just come in: Answering a question by our correspondent, the IDF spokesman said that IDF forces keep a watchful eye on developments in the north, in the southern Lebanese sector. The spokesman noted there may possibly be infiltration of terrorists into southern Lebanon, but there are no signs or indications that the terrorists are establishing facts in the field.

The southern Lebanese sector was, on the whole, calm today.

E. JERUSALEM PAPER DISCUSSES VIEWS OF PALESTINIANS

TA081111Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 78 p 5 TA

[By Tewfiq Houri]

[Text] "The greatest concentration of Palestinians is living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These people should have an active role to play. They should be given the opportunity to make their views heard to the Arab and non-Arab world."

These remarks are included in an editorial comment published yesterday in the East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS.

There is no doubt that the general tone of the editorial, which calls on the inhabitants of the territories to contribute their share of the peacemaking process in the area, is unusual, because of the position that the PLO represents the Arabs of the territories. Experts in Arab affairs think that possibly this is an attempt on the part of a pro-Jordanian group to inspire a public argument in the territories on the issue of the Palestinian representation.

The editorial also says: "There is not one political leader in Israel who has not expressed his views on the issue of the settlement and the future of the conquered territories. No Arab king or president remains who has not done this. Where are we, the inhabitants of the West Bank and the strip? Have we played the important role intended in the issue?"

SHARON COMMENTS ON PEACE TALKS, PEACE NOW MOVEMENT

TA081713Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 May 78 TA

[Excerpt] Minister of agriculture, Ari'el Sharon, said today that the peace initiative was not As-Sadat's initiative, but the initiative of the Government of Israel, and that the government has promised Egyptian sovereignty over all of Sinai because, in preliminary contacts, it became clear that As-Sadat would not respond to Israel's peace initiative unless such a commitment were made. The minister, who spoke this afternoon to students at the Technion, claimed that a political body is involved in the organizing of the Peace Now Movement. Zivi Tal brings us some of Minister Sharon's words: [begin recording]

The minister of agriculture, Ari'el Sharon, claimed that the current government has demonstrated a willingness to make concessions even more than the dovish governments which preceded it. However, Sharon added, there is a red line which Israel cannot cross without endangering its very existence.

Referring to the Peace Now Movement, the minister said that he respects and encourages public debate on such an important subject, but that in his opinion there is also a partisan, interested element present which operates behind this body.

[Sharon] I reprimand those who are trying to cause a split in the nation out of frustration over having lost power and in order to reinsure only one safety: the safety of their own seats [pun on word shalom which means both safety and peace]--to return to their seats. Twelve months ago they were overthrown after 30 years. They can, to my regret, no longer reconcile themselves to the idea that they are no longer in power and they regard as legitimate any method to try to undermine the government, even in actions which might damage the budding chances now for a real and secure peace.

[Tal] Minister Sharon argued that the Egyptians are aware of the activity of the Peace Now Movement, and that they believe they could get better conditions.

[Sharon] The government can achieve peace on the basis of its peace plan. The other party today is hardening as a result of its feeling that it still did not take full advantage [of the situation] and that it can get additional things. In my opinion this is a shame, simply a shame.

I am not angry with those young men, I think it is a wonderful group. However, what it is doing now, in my opinion, is simply causing a delay in the issue, and it can bring worse conditions, because the other party will harden its positions. As in any negotiations, one party ultimately grows closer to the other. What will finally happen? There will be no choice but to get closer to a stiffer position. What does this mean? It means peace under worse conditions. [end recording]

Denies Settlement Budget Cut

TA081337Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 May 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said the report that this year's budget for settlements is lower than in the past is unfounded. Minister Sharon, as the head of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, said this to Technion students in reaction to a report broadcast this morning. In his opinion the report is not based on facts. In fact the budget for settlements this year is larger than last year's in real terms, amounting to 426 million Israeli pounds in addition to 170 million pounds in reserve.

According to Sharon, the misunderstanding stems from the fact that the Housing Ministry fixed a smaller budget inasmuch as it was decided to prefer temporary construction in the new settlements in order to overcome budgetary difficulties.

TORAH SAGES COUNCIL HEAD AGAINST SETTLEMENTS

TA080930Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 8 May 78 p 8 TA

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] The settlements are a crude provocation to the nations of the world, the leader of Agudat Yisra'el and the head of the Council of Torah Sages, Rabbi El'azar Menahem Shakh, claims in a letter he has distributed in religious quarters. The rabbi also writes in his letter: "To the best of our awareness and belief, those who are claiming to preserve the state are endangering it."

As for the matter of the settlements, Rabbi Shakh maintains that it springs from the basic mistake of the Zionists, "in whose view everything that has happened to us is just because we had no state or regime of our own, and now that there is a Jewish state and regime, we are a country equal to all the other countries of the world. If we appear to be more aggressive and insist on our views, our enemies will give way."

In his conclusion Rabbi Shakh explains why he supports Agudat Yisra'el in the cabinet: "Our support for the current cabinet is not because it satisfies us, but because it is less bad than another, and in the hope that with the aid of the Lord, blessed be He, we will be able to save a little, so that it will not be worse."

HA'AREZ CITES 'POLITICAL CENSORSHIP' OF SETTLEMENT ISSUE

TA061944Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 5 May 78 p 13 TA

[Ze'ev Schiff commentary]

[Excerpts] The decision by the government 3 weeks ago to transfer the handling of the issue of settlement in the territories from the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs should be seen primarily as an unfair trick to hide from the public important political information about vital issues, to hide from it political information about the government's plans and actions in this sphere and information about the views and positions of ministers from the various coalition parties regarding the issue of settlement.

The press has reported that the DMC ministers are proud of Begin's initiative to transfer the issue of settlement to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs because they thus neutralize the chairman of the Settlement Affairs Committee, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. If indeed this was the initiative and intention of some of the DMC members--they are either rank amateurs and cannot tell what the real result of their initiative will be, or they cooperated with the prime minister in wanting to hide from the public prime political information and are now trying to cover up for this by idle talk.

True, after transferring the issue to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, Sharon will no longer be the king of the battalion as he was at the head of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs. However, this does not stop him from being active and making proposals in the name of his committee and as minister of agriculture, despite the fact that the prime minister is chairman of the committee. If this were only a question of control over Sharon it would have been enough if the foreign, finance and defense ministers would always have participated (not through delegates) in the sessions of Sharon's committee and, together with the prime minister, have seen to it that every basic decision by the committee is brought before the full cabinet, as was customary when Galili was the head of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs.

It seems though that the major objective was not curbing and restraining Sharon but blocking the flow of information to the public on this sensitive issue. Let no one tell us that defense considerations guided those who made the proposal since the military censor does not need the cover of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs in order to erase every bit of information that may harm the security of the state and ban its publication even if it concerns an issue discussed in the Ministerial Committee for Tourism Affairs or in the Committee for Ceremonies, or in any other committee.

The military censor does this anyway since border settlements or settlements in the territories have already long been considered issues concerning which the communications media require censoring. The issue was transferred to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs because settlement in the territories is considered "a troublesome" issue, especially since the beginning of the negotiations with Egypt, and inasmuch as Washington, the international press and international public keep a much closer watch over it than before.

If the issue were discussed only in the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs or in the cabinet plenum and not in the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, we could know a lot or everything about what was discussed and said on the matter of settlements. The censor would have crossed out the defense details but we could have known what the DMC ministers said about the settlements and what the Liberal or other ministers said about settlement under the cover of archeological excavations.

We could have learned whether the ministers were acting according to the promises they made to their electorate or whether they were talking one language to the public and another during the internal discussions. However, in the wake of the new initiative to transfer the issue to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, a blackout will be imposed on the issue. This is all according to the wish of the prime minister and the government.

This is what we are to expect now in the wake of the government's decision. The simple definition for this is political censorship. There is no other definition for this and it is all the more severe that the cover of security (of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs) is used for this and that the IDF is used for the actual execution of actions. The military censor is compelled to carry out political censorship in the name of the government.

GOLDMANN COMMENTS ON POSSIBILITY OF POLISH-ISRAELI TIES

TA051757Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 May 78 TA

[Text] Dr Nahum Goldmann said that in talks he held with several Polish leaders he gained the impression that Poland would resume diplomatic relations with Israel under two conditions: If the Soviet Union were to do so, and if there is major progress toward peace. Dr Goldmann believes that the Soviet Union would resume relations with Israel even before official peace is achieved in the region. In his opinion, it would be satisfied with a resumption of the Geneva conference under the aegis of the two superpowers. He said that the matter of his invitation to the Soviet Union is at present on the agenda there.

Dr Goldmann pointed out that Polish authorities are spending large amounts of money to maintain the Yiddish theater in Warsaw and that due to lack of Jewish actors five of the permanent actors in the theater are gentiles who have learned Yiddish. He was speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport on his arrival to participate in a meeting of the directorate of the World Jewish Congress and at the opening of Bet Hatefozot [a museum to Jews in the diaspora].

UNIVERSITY DEAN ATTACKED, IN SERIOUS CONDITION

LD081020Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 8 May 78 LD

[Text] According to a PARS News Agency report, while professors and students were busy teaching and studying, a few students created disturbances at Teheran University and disrupted other students' studies. They not only threatened and intimidated students and professors, but attacked and assaulted the dean of the literature faculty with knives, causing him serious injury.

Following the incident, the dean, Dr Ezatollah Negahban, was taken to a hospital, had to undergo an operation and is in a serious condition.

According to another report by PARS, the dean of the social science faculty of the university was also threatened by a student on his way home. The deputy dean of the faculty was also attacked last week.

Our correspondent reports that yesterday morning a few students from the agricultural college of Karaj [about 25 miles west of Teheran] assaulted another student of the college while he was asleep and severely manhandled him. The report adds that the student attacked was very punctual and disciplined.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REPORTS CABINET MEETING

LD081716Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 8 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] The cabinet met under Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar today. Mr Daryush Homayun, government spokesman and minister of information and tourism, had the following to say about the proceedings:

The cabinet discussed a report regarding the conclusion of a convention and the associated protocol on the environmental and marine protection of the waters of the Persian Gulf and the coastal region signed by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE. Under the protocol, a mutual assistance center will be set up to protect the waters of the Persian Gulf and the coastal regions from pollution, particularly oil pollution, and to take appropriate precautionary measures when necessary.

In answer to a reporter's question regarding current rumors of a cabinet reshuffle, the government spokesman said: The government does not need to be reshuffled.

With regard to Iran's position toward the new Afghan Government, the government spokesman said: Afghanistan is one of Iran's closest neighbors, and the independence and happiness of the Afghan people have always been one of Iran's main objectives. The Iranian government has recognized the Afghan government. We continue to desire the independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

Regarding negotiations with Australia on uranium purchases from that country, Mr Daryush Homayun said: The negotiations between the two countries on uranium purchases from Australia have not reached any results. The Australian prime minister says he is awaiting the outcome of the Iranian-U.S. talks on the appropriate guarantees relating to uranium enrichment. The Iranian-Australian negotiations will be resumed at another time.

AFGHANISTAN

KARACHI RADIO REPORTS TARAKI'S 6 MAY NEWS CONFERENCE

BK0710287 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 7 May 78 BK

[Text] The new Afghan president, Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, announced his government's domestic and foreign policies at a news conference in Kabul yesterday. It was the first news conference after the setting up of the new government and was attended by local and foreign journalists. The Afghan president said that his government will give priority in the domestic field to land reform, reduction in prices of essential commodities, better employment opportunities at home providing for the return of Afghan workers overseas and development of trade and commerce. He said his government will carry out a development program for the benefit of the working class and other laboring people of Afghanistan. He said that his party, and not the armed forces, would run the government. He said the Central Committee of his party will have the status of the highest official body in the country. He declared that his party is not communist, as no communist party exists in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president said that the basic foundation of Islam will be maintained in the country. He said that his party will consider allowing other parties to function and that general elections will be held as soon as conditions return to normal.

About foreign policy, Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki said Afghanistan will pursue a policy of strict nonalinement. He added that Afghanistan wants to maintain cordial relations with all countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union, and that it would search for a peaceful settlement of the dispute with Pakistan. He said the new government will not be under anyone's influence and expressed the hope that Afghanistan will receive unconditional assistance from the Soviet Union and the United States to solve its backwardness.

President Takaki said the military takeover last week was evolved by the People's Democratic Party. It could have been carried out anytime during the past 2 years. The end of the previous government was not due to any sudden revolution but was the result of a well-planned operation.

TANJUG Report

LD0612507 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1155 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] Kabul--TANJUG's special correspondent Boza Rafajlovic reports: "In Afghanistan we carried out a people's, democratic revolution. This was not a putsch or a coup, but a revolutionary act of the masses under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party.

"New Afghanistan, its party, Revolutionary Council and government will now pursue a policy benefiting the people and for the development of democracy, economic progress and friendly links with all countries, strictly and consistently sticking to the position of nonalinement."

This was stated today by Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party and president of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan, at his first press conference. For 2 hours the president of the Revolutionary Council, who is at the same time prime minister, replied to questions from representatives of the domestic and foreign press, defining the character of the revolutionary movement and the goals of the government.

"We are very grateful to our comrades from the army who, on our orders, successfully and rapidly carried out the task we gave them."

Asked by TANJUG's correspondent about the foreign political orientation of the new regime, Nur Mohammad Taraki said that above all "he greatly regrets" that the planned ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonalined nations, which was scheduled to begin in Kabul today, had to be postponed temporarily. "We were not able to renew the invitations because our circumstances did not allow us to do so," he added. "However, our fundamental aim in foreign affairs is the maintenance of national independence, and for us this is only possible from the position of nonalinement. It is most likely that we shall send our minister of foreign affairs to the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonalined nations so he can convey to our friends, the nonalined countries, the resolve of democratic Afghanistan to remain a nonalined country."

The leader of the Afghan revolution replied very openly and precisely to all the questions, even those about his life. "I am 61, and I have been in politics since my young days. In order to be able to live I have worked in journalism, and I worked for a long time as an employee in a business in Bombay. In the 1950's I was even a press attache at our embassy in Washington, and I have written about a dozen books, largely novels about the life of peasants."

Nur Mohammad Taraki, as he stated today, returned to Kabul at the beginning of 1966, a year after the founding congress of the People's Democratic Party, whose general secretary he is today. This party unites, according to him, all the progressive and popular factions which previously existed in the country.

The "Khalq" and the "Parcham," which are often referred to as disunited factions of the erstwhile Communist Party, no longer exist and are the names of two weekly papers published by the People's Democratic Party.

This leading force of the revolution, Nur Mohammad Taraki announced, contains more than 50,000 members, mainly workers, peasants and army comrades. "Our party is open to all, and in particular, we invite our youth and intelligentsia to join us in the work of building the country." In this connection, he noted that the government had no intention of introducing a one-party system and that the formation of other parties, if asked for, will be allowed.

Explaining the aims of the revolution, Nur Mohammad Taraki stressed that Afghanistan was a very poor and underdeveloped country. "We wish to rule to the benefit of the whole nation, to develop our country, and for this we need foreign aid. We wish the friendship of all, of both the United States and the USSR, and our relations will primarily depend on how much help anyone gives us for our development."

"No one can be a 'model' for us in accordance with which we shall develop," He went on, resolutely stating that as a nonalined country Afghanistan neither wished nor intended to conclude any military arrangements, either bilateral or multilateral. "Our foreign policy is nonalinement."

As for domestic policy, he said that man was at the center of the revolution. "We have no nationalization plans either. In Afghanistan, with the problems of poverty everywhere, there is nothing to nationalize."

Taraki said that the "direct action of the comrades from the army was not planned a long time in advance." He noted that the murder of Mir Akbar Khayber, one of the trade union leaders of the People's Democratic Party, had been the "first warning" to the party that the regime now overthrown was preparing a large-scale persecution. When Nur Mohammad Taraki was also arrested, together with six present-day ministers, the army was given the order to act.

"In the fighting which took place there were 72 dead on both sides, and only 25 persons were arrested. Most of those who perished did so in the presidential palace because Daud offered fierce resistance."

"The situation is quickly improving and normalizing now," the president of the Revolutionary Council stated. "We shall not abolish censorship of the press yet, but prices have started coming down. Meat and bread cost less. We have restarted communications and shall continue our development projects. Our aim is to take Afghanistan out of poverty and make it attractive even to those who have had to leave their country because they were hungry, so that they can return to their homes as soon as possible."

KARACHI RADIO REPORTS IMPOSITION OF CURFEW IN KABUL

BK0817l5Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 May 78 BK

[Text] According to Radio Kabul, curfew has been imposed in Kabul from 2300 tonight. The radio asked the people to remain in their homes during the curfew hours.

FINANCE MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON BANKING

JN061129Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Finance of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has issued the following statement: Dear compatriots: the successful and [word indistinct] revolution began with the downfall of the treacherous and oppressive regime of [words indistinct]. A new and [word indistinct] era has begun with the opening of the new revolution in our beloved homeland of Afghanistan.

It is certain that with the achievement of the objectives of this revolution, our beloved country will become secure, free and prosperous. The citizens can proceed in their banking activities relaxed and without any disruption. The banks will be available for the honest service of the citizens. All the citizens' (?funds) in the banks will be secured and protected. The citizens must assist the revolution and the course of financial affairs in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. We must announce frankly that keeping capital and funds without [word indistinct] is not a patriotic deed and benefits neither the person nor the homeland.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES GOODS AVAILABLE AT REDUCED PRICES

JN081147Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] The Ministry of Trade would like to announce to our dear citizens that they can purchase essential goods in any quantity and at reduced prices from the local markets. Price reductions will be announced periodically on the radio, in newspapers and by the merchants themselves. Sellers should participate in this national campaign and thus be content with reasonable profits [words indistinct].

KABUL RADIO REPORTS LOCAL SUPPORT FOR NEW REGIME

Ghazni Inhabitants

LD051652Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 5 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Ulemas, notables, officials, students, farmers and workers of the districts of Moqor, Qareh Bagh, Andar, Katwaz [words indistinct] of Ghazni Province went in groups to the governor's headquarters and expressed their congratulations to Brigadier General Surgul, governor and military commander of Ghazni Province, on the success of the revolutionary uprising of 27 April. They also indicated readiness to cooperate on all matters with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]. The Bakhtar correspondent reports from Ghazni that the price of food in that province's markets has come down and that the people are expressing pleasure and satisfaction about this.

Baluchi Representatives

BK051453Y Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Text] Mr (Karim Baluch) and Mr (Aslam Baragzoi), overseas representatives of Baluchistan, in a telegraphic message addressed to Nur Mohammad Taraki, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, have stated: The oppressed masses of Baluchistan, who have been struggling for their right to self-determination and social justice, warmly welcome the success of the people of Afghanistan against servants of reaction and colonialism and promise the maintenance of traditional solidarity between the Baluchi and Afghan people.

Herat Religious Leaders

LD051904Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 May 78 LD/BK

[Excerpt] The ulema and religious leaders of the public mosques of Herat city and the surrounding districts of Herat Province gave sermons and speeches today before and after the Friday congregational prayers. They called for the people's cooperation in consolidating the country's new order, which assures the future welfare and prosperity of the noble people of Afghanistan. According to the Bakhtar correspondent's report from Herat, Lt Col Gol Aqa, governor and military commander of Herat Province, took part in the Friday congregational prayer at Herat city's public mosque.

Military Academy Commandant

LD061746Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] The victorious revolution of the 27th of April was celebrated at a grand meeting by the military academy and the department of technical services in the grounds of the military academy [words indistinct]. The meeting began with recitation of verses from the Holy Koran, after which Major General Shahpur, commandant of the military academy, after congratulating the cadre, instructors and workers and [word indistinct] personnel on the real revolution of the 27th of April, the formation of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the election of the president of the Revolutionary Council, the members of the government and the Revolutionary Council, said in his speech: I wish to applaud the valiant, selfless and heroic young men on the (?fulfillment) of their nistorical and national obligation [words indistinct] carried out the true revolution of the 27th of April to fruition for the benefit [words indistinct].

The commandant of the military academy threw light upon the cruelties and treacheries of the treacherous Nadir family and said that colonialism had established its [few words indistinct] of propaganda. The reactionaries, he said, are looking for an opportunity; therefore all patriotic people in Afghanistan, particularly our national armed forces, must be alert. He said that the revolutionary government, on the first day of the revolution, declared adherence [word indistinct] and respect for the principles of the Islamic faith at the head of its policies. Therefore, it is for me to allow none to subvert the revolutionary government.

Major General Shahpur concluded his statement with slogans of long live the revolution of Afghanistan; glory to our national and heroic armed forces; long live the great power of the nation and peasants and workers; long live the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan; long live the president of the Revolutionary Council Nur Mohammad Taraki; and death to the enemies of the people and the (?state). [passage indistinct]

Paktia Province

LD061252Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Summary] Our Bakhtar correspondent reports from Gardez that representatives from various counties of Paktia Province proceeded in large groups yesterday to the governor's office to express their congratulations on the success of the national revolution and the election of the president of the revolutionary council to Brig Gen Gholam Nabi, the governor and garrison commander of Paktia Province. They also presented their congratulations in writing to the governor.

According to another report, the inhabitants of Orgun District of Paktia Province celebrated the success of the revolution at a grand ceremony and expressed their support for the aims of Afghanistan's national order.

Nangarhar Province

LD061302Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Summary] According to a Bakhtar News Agency report, in Nangarhar Province the inhabitants of Shinwar District, numbering of thousands of men and women, celebrated the success of the democratic and progressive revolution of 27 April.

Balkh Province

LD061224Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] The pious and patriotic people of Balkh Province who had gathered at the Congregation Mosque for Friday prayers, while endorsing their support and welcoming the April 27 revolution of the valorous armed forces of the Moslem nation of Afghanistan, prayed for further successes of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the light of the revolution. They also expressed their loyalty and unity with the new revolutionary regime. Bakhtar correspondent reports from Mazar-e Sharif that in the Congregation Mosque, at the shrine of Hazrat Ali and other mosques in the center and the counties of the province, prior to their Friday prayers the religious leaders in their sermons condemned the 50-year old cruel despotic, perverse and deceitful rule of the Nadir dynasty. Bakhtar correspondent adds that the religious leaders, while supporting the objectives of the new regime and the decisions of the Revolutionary Council, considered it a national victory that the assets of the members of the despotic Nadir dynasty have been proclaimed nationalized. They supported with pleasure and endorsed this decision of the Revolutionary Council.

Bamian Religious Leaders

LD061407Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Summary] Maulawi Sami 'Ollah, sermon leader of the Tolwareh Mosque in Bamian, in his sermon delivered at the Friday congregational prayers yesterday denounced the false promises of the Daud regime from the viewpoint of Islam. He said that the new order and the success of the revolution is at the same time a victory for Islam, for under the Nadir dynasty rulers moral and religious teachings were ruthlessly violated. At the end of the prayers, another religious leader, Maulawi Najaf Ali, cited a few verses of the Holy Koran. The religious leaders of Bamian pledged their full support for the new revolutionary regime.

TARAKI MEETS PATHAN LEADER GHAFFAR KHAN

BK0902220Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0129 GMT 9 May 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, May 9 (AFP)--Abdul Ghaffar Khan, veteran Pathan leader from Pakistan's North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, met with new Afghan leader Nur Mohammad Taraki in Kabul today, Radio Kabul reported.

The meeting was also attended by AJamal Khattak, a leader of the National Awami Party banned in Pakistan over 3 years ago by former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for its alleged secessionist activities.

Mr Khattak fled to Afghanistan in the wake of the crackdown by Bhutto on the National Awami Party in 1974.

Radio Kabul said Mr Ghaffar Khan also had a meeting with Vice President and Deputy Premier Babrak Karmal and some other Afghan ministers.

Observers here attached significance to the importance given to Pakistan Pathan leaders by the new Afghan regime headed by Mr Taraki who reportedly referred to the border dispute with Pakistan in his first press conference.

Octogenarian Ghaffar Khan is the father of Abdul Wali Khan, former president of the defunct National Awami Party who was freed from jail after Mr Bhutto was overthrown in July last year.

Known as "Frontier Gandhi" for his role against British colonial rule before the subcontinent's independence in 1947, Ghaffar Khan had gone to Afghanistan for medical treatment before the April 27 coup against the late president Mohammad Daud.

TARAKI CABLES THANKS TO BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN

LD081736Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] The Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry has reported that Mr Taraki has sent a telegram to His Excellency Leonid Brezhnev and His Excellency Aleksey Kosygin in reply to their congratulatory messages.

"In the telegram, Mr Taraki expresses his gratitude for the fact that the USSR was the first country to extend official recognition to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The telegram expresses the desire for the continuation of the friendly (?and fraternal) relations that have fortunately existed between our peoples and for the further consolidation of these relations and for fruitful cooperation in various fields for the benefit of our peoples and the world."

Similarly Mr Amin, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a telegram to the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, in reply to his congratulatory message and has expressed the desire for the further strengthening of the friendly and good-neighborly relations between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH

BURMESE REPORTEDLY SETTLING IN AREAS OF EVICTED MOSLEMS

BK071002Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 7 May 78 BK

[Text] Reports from Rangoon say the Buremese authorities now seem to be determined to establish new settlements for other Burmese nationals in the hinterland after illegally evicting the ethnic minorities from their ancestral homes and pushing them forcibly into Bangladesh.

According to these reports, the Arakan state authorities are now erecting new (?settlements) with an ulterior motive to deprive the ethnic minority of its ancestral home.

As already reported, the Bangladesh Government has reiterated its great concern at the continous exodus of the ill-fated Burmese nationals into Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the presidential adviser for industries, Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed, has called for mobilization of all available resources for gearing up relief operations in the refugee camps. The adviser, who was presiding over a high-level meeting at Chittagong yesterday, appealed to all concerned to start relief work in a massive way to ameliorate the sufferings of the evicted Burmese.

The chiefs of the UNDP, UNICEF, World Health Organization and World Food Program in Bangladesh visited several refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar yesterday. During their visit they talked to a large number of evictees (?who told) them harrowing tales of the torture they were subjected to by the Burmese authorities. After their visit, the chiefs of these world organizations described as acute the problem created by the influx of Burmese nationals into Bangladesh.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN TO BE MAINTAINED

BK081250Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 May 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has informed Afghanistan that in view of the existing cordial relations between the brotherly people of the two countries, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh wishes to maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, headed by Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki.

The Government of Bangladesh is confident that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come.

ZIA EXPLAINS FRONT POLICY AT PRESS CONFERENCE

BK081108Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 8 May 78 BK

[Text] The chairman of the Jatiyatabadi Front and presidential candidate, Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, has said preservation of the country's independence and sovereignty by frustrating the conspiracies of the enemy is the prima facie of the front. Addressing a crowded news conference in Dacca yesterday, he put forward an eight-point framework of the program of the front.

Gen Ziaur Rahman regretted that those who had once betrayed the cause of the nation and helped establish dictatorial rule in the country have again come to the surface in new guise. In fact, these are the people who have been trying to create chaos in the way of smooth transition from military rule to constitutional democracy. He emphasized the need for organizing an impregnable resistance against these forces.

General Zia said another prime objective of the front is to remove all the undemocratic and antipeople provisions of the laws enacted during the previous regime. It will also endeavor to reorient the labor laws to insure the full democratic rights of the workers. He also announced the gradual withdrawal of the rest of the causes of the political parties regulation.

Asked about the exodus of the Burmese ethnic minorities from Burma into Bangladesh, the front chairman said their eviction is inhuman. He also said it is a great human problem, and we are doing whatever is necessary.

OPPOSITION LEADER WANTS PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

BK0811142Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 7 May 78 BK

[Text] The Gonotantrik Oikko Jote [Democratic United Front] presidential nominee, retired General Osmani, told a public meeting in Dacca today that he was contesting the election to restore the sovereignty of the people through parliamentary democracy. He maintained that restoration of parliamentary democracy will insure the sovereignty and rights of the people. He asked his audience to be united and work in a disciplined manner to realize the objective.

The meeting was presided over by the Awami League chief, Mr Abdul Malek Ukil, and addressed by the leaders of the component parties and groups of the Gonotantrik Oikko Jote. The speakers included Maulana Abdul Rashid Tarkabagis, Dr (Alim al-Rahi), Mrs Motia Chowdhury, Mr Abdul Razak and Mr (Saifuddin Malek).

AWAMI LEAGUE CHIEF FAVORS PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

BK0411440Y Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Apr 78 pp 1, 16 BK

[By a staff correspondent]

[Text] Mr Abul Malek Ukil, president of the Bangladesh Awami League told a press conference on Wednesday that his party favours the parliamentary form of government for the restoration of the rights of the people.

The Awami League [AL] had introduced the one-party presidential form of government through the fourth amendment of the constitution with the avowed intention of realising nationalism, democracy, secularism and socialism. Mr Malek Ukil said these principles could now be achieved through the parliamentary form of government. He said that the shift in the stand of the party on the form of government had been necessitated by the "changed circumstances." He, however, did not elaborate on what the changed circumstances were.

He did not agree with a questioner that by shifting the party stand on the form of government the Awami League was moving away from the goals set forth by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said the one-party presidential form of government was introduced for the realisation of four principles under "given circumstances," and the situation has changed since August 15, 1975. The Awami League chief asserted that his party would attain socialism through evolutionary process and not through revolutionary means. He said, "We shall achieve socialism through democracy."

The party general secretary, Mr Abdur Razzak, said that parliamentary democracy was the preliminary phase for establishing socialism. He, however, parried a question when asked whether the next step in the process would be the formation of Baksal [Bangladesh Awami Krishak Sramik Awami League].

Replying to a question on the participation of the Awami League in the ensuing presidential election, Mr Malek Ukil said, "Our resolution is self-explanatory," adding that the Awami League's policy was that nothing should be allowed to go unchallenged. But he declined to say anything categorical about his party's decision to participate in the June 3 presidential polls. Pressed for a categorical answer on this issue, the Awami League chief said, "We are confused and so we have invited you (the newsmen)."

He said that the people were mentally prepared for the elections to the Parliament in coming December, but the announcement on presidential polls came as what he said Pearl Harbour type surprise. [sentence as published] He parried most of the questions on the role of his party in the ensuing presidential election.

Replying to a question, Mr Malek Ukil said that the Parliament would be turned into a rubber stamp if the executive powers are held by the president. He said that the presidential system was contradictory to the concept of a sovereign Parliament.

When asked whether the Parliament was sovereign after the fourth amendment, the Awami League chief, who was then the speaker of "Jatiya Sangsad," said that the Parliament had the power to impeach the president, frame laws and had control over the national exchequer. Asked whether his party would support a presidential form of government if these provisions were incorporated in the constitution, Mr Malek Ukil remained silent.

He told a questioner that his party was ready to open a dialogue with "like-minded parties" for the establishment of parliamentary democracy in the country.

Mr Malek Ukil said that his party would carry out a struggle for realisation of the objectives of his party through constitutional and peaceful means. He said that every public leader, including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was subject to criticism. But the criticism should be constructive, he asserted. He, however, warned that his party would not tolerate any criticism against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the national anthem and the national flag.

About secularism, Mr Malek Ukil said that his party stood for this, and secularism was not against religion. "My party stands for full religious rights of every citizen," he added.

Mr Malek Ukil said that the leaders of his party would declare their assets on protest, adding that the law should be equal to all. He alleged that the provision of declaration of the assets by public leaders had been made to harass the Awami League leaders.

Mr Malek Ukil spoke for 67 minutes, tracing the history, struggle and achievements of the Awami League since its inception. Mr Abdur Razzak, general secretary of the party, read out the resolutions adopted in the Central Executive Committee of the Awami League held on April 21, 22 and 23 (the resolutions are about the AL stand on the form of government and declaration of assets by public leaders).

Questions and answers:

Question: Will the Awami League participate in the presidential elections?

Answer: Our resolution is self-explanatory. The Awami League's policy is that nothing should go unchallenged.

Question: Do you think that the Parliament was sovereign after the fourth amendment to the constitution?

Answer: The Parliament had the power to impeach the president besides framing laws and passing of budgets, etc.

Question: Don't you think that if you create controversy over the form of government it would impede transformation to democracy?

Answer: We are not questioning about the system of government but the sincerity and process of the government in restoring democracy.

Question: Did you sign any secret pact with India?

Answer: If there is any secret pact make it public. [sentence as published]

Question: Why did you close down newspapers?

Answer: It's a delicate issue. We did it under the prevailing circumstances. But we believe in the freedom of the press and demand publication of the annulled newspapers.

ENA [Eastern News Agency] adds: Asked whether his party would demand trial for the killing of Siraj Sikdar along with Shiekh Mujibur Rahman and four jailed leaders, Mr Malek Ukil said he would welcome such inquiry and trial by the government. "Let the government come out with facts," he said.

Asked whether his party welcomes the joining of government servants in the political party, Mr Malek Ukil said, "Rather, we condemn the joining of any active government servant in the party."

PAKISTAN

AGHA SHAHI LEAVES ON 3-DAY VISIT TO IRAN

BK0713320Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 May 78 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, left for Teheran this morning on a 3-day official visit to Iran. He has been invited by the Iranian foreign minister, Mr Khal'atbari.

NAVY CHIEF RETURNS AFTER 10-DAY VISIT TO PRC

BK0809320Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 8 May 78 BK

[Text] Chief of Naval Staff Adm Mohammad Sharif returned to Islamabad yesterday at the end of a 10-day visit to China. During his stay, Admiral Sharif visited Chinese defense establishments and met with high-ranking military officials.

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